



**GPCPG**

**GARENDON PARK & COUNTRYSIDE  
PROTECTION GROUP  
NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2011**

## **Annual General Meeting 2011**

Details of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Garendon Park & Countryside Protection Group (GPCPG) are as follows:

Date: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011 commencing at 7.30pm

Venue: Glenmore Centre, Thorpe Road, Shepshed

## **Update on Our Campaign**

Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) is preparing a Pre-Submission Draft of the Core Strategy which will be published in February 2012. This Draft will include the proposed number of houses to be built in Charnwood, and their location. We are closely monitoring progress on this Draft Report and are constantly in touch with CBC Planning Officers to ensure our views are known and incorporated into the Draft.

The Council is likely to maintain its Preferred Option of building 3,500 houses on the Garendon Estate. But we will continue to submit evidence based reasons for reducing the housing target as well as insisting that any new developments are on brownfield sites, not on greenfield, agricultural land. We remain optimistic that Borough Councillors can be persuaded to adopt this environmentally friendly Alternative Option.

We have been actively involved in Leicestershire County Council's Green Spaces consultation, conducted through the Community Forums. Results from the consultation will be closely analysed and pressure put on CBC to make sure they are taken into account when preparing the Pre-Submission Draft. The Government Green Spaces Policy is to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities and is therefore of particular relevance to Garendon Park & Estate.

Some Councillors and others have sometimes referred to GPCPG supporters as NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard). But this is entirely incorrect. We are in fact NOGALs (Not On Greenfield Agricultural Land)! If we don't protect our green spaces and productive agricultural land then what is the future for 'England's Green and Pleasant Land'?

The Government's 'National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)' has been discussed recently on the national news and in the media. Many national organisations, such as the National Trust, have condemned the NPPF as being written by the National Builders Federation. Senior figures from the building industry including a Taylor Wimpey executive were hired to help draw up planning guidelines. Leicestershire has no greenbelt and areas such as the Garendon Green Wedge fall into the category of unprotected countryside. We are hoping to meet with our local MP, Nicky Morgan, to discuss the NPPF before our AGM.

## **Your Continued Help**

The next four months are critical. If the Pre-Submission Draft identifies the Garendon Estate as a preferred location for building 3,500 houses, and the accompanying infrastructure, then it is likely this will become CBC policy. Though there will be further public consultations, these would only result in minor amendments to the Core Strategy. It will be too late to stop the destruction of the Garendon Green Wedge and subsequent damage to the historic Garendon Park and its 14 listed buildings.

You can help by:

- Asking family and friends to join GPCPG
- Contacting your Borough Councillor to express your opposition to the Core Strategy Preferred Option
- Writing to the Echo and Leicester Mercury
- Signing our Petition against building on Garendon
- Financial contributions to our Campaign are still welcome

Please contact the following Committee Members for further information:

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